

the confidence of the citizens of Kenya. In doing so, the government can slowly start to rebuild the trust of its citizens.

Therefore, I urge Kenyan officials to do everything humanly possible to end the unprecedented bloodshed and violence. It is unsettling to hear that over 1,000 people have lost their lives and more than 300,000 have been displaced.

Kenya was hailed as a great example of democracy for other African nations to emulate. I look forward to the day when Kenya returns to its pursuit of democracy.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I applaud the Kenyan people for standing up for democracy and their right to a democratic government.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 29 H. Res. 867—Commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup, I was attending a funeral for a soldier killed in Iraq.

Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

CALLING FOR A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE CURRENT ELECTORAL CRISIS IN KENYA

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize House Concurrent Resolution 283, calling for a peaceful resolution to the current electoral crisis in Kenya.

As a result of the elections held on December 27, 2007 chaos has erupted in Kenya. It was suspected that the administration police were used to rig elections in favor of Part of National Unity aligned to President Kibaki. During the announcement of the results from different polling stations, it was discovered that there were serious inconsistencies between results released at the polling stations and those that were announced by Electoral Commission of Kenya.

Since then, Kenya has been experiencing civil war and people are suffering. As the people of Kenya face ongoing violence, they stay strong in proclaiming, through electoral process, their country deserves a fair democracy. I praise the courage and commitment of the Kenyan citizens towards democracy. We must support their efforts towards liberty and justice by persuading the international community.

With passage of this legislation, the international community, United Nations aid organizations, and all neighboring countries are called upon to assist those affected by violence and asked to use diplomatic means to persuade relevant political actors to commit to a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

On behalf of the 30th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to support passage of House Concurrent Resolution 283.

TORNADOS THAT AFFECTED ARKANSAS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to offer our thoughts and prayers to the victims of the recent tornados that have devastated many parts of Arkansas and the surrounding region. On behalf of the Congress I especially extend our sympathies to the families who have lost a loved one in this terrible tragedy.

As we move to rebuild our State, I commend all those who have reached out to their neighbors to provide assistance in this time of need. As families and businesses begin the cleanup process, I am committed to helping these individuals get the resources they need to rebuild their lives and communities.

Arkansans are great people who exemplify Southern hospitality and I have great faith our communities will persevere and prevail through this difficult time.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, on February 6, 2008, I missed rollcall votes 29–31. My flight from California to Washington, DC, did not get me back in time. Had I been here, I would have voted “yes” on all three votes.

Rollcall Vote 29: On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 867, Commending the Houston Dynamo soccer team for winning the 2007 Major League Soccer Cup;

Rollcall Vote 30: On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 942, Recognizing the significance of Black History Month; and

Rollcall Vote 31: On Motion To Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 943, Remembering the space shuttle *Challenger* disaster and honoring its crew members, who lost their lives on January 28, 1986.

CONGRATULATING LEE MYUNGBAK ON ELECTION TO PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

Ms. WATSON. Madam Speaker, I want to commend Mr. ROYCE on sponsoring H. Res. 947, a resolution congratulating Lee Myung-Bak on his election to the Presidency of the Republic of Korea and wishing him well during his transition and inauguration on February 25, 2008.

The United States and Korea share a long-standing and special relationship. Our strong alliance is rooted in the common principles of freedom and democracy. Today that relation-

ship has blossomed into a strong economic partnership in which the Republic of Korea has become one of the United States' major trading partners. In my State of California, Korea is the State's fifth largest trading partner and the Los Angeles Custom District's third largest trading partner, with \$18 billion in two-way trade annually.

In my congressional district in Los Angeles, Hollywood, and Culver City, ethnic Koreans have built a thriving business and cultural area known as Koreatown. Many maintain close cultural, business, and family ties to their homeland. Accordingly, it is my hope that the Republic of Korea will be fully admitted into the Visa Waiver Program in the very near future so that we may share even closer people-to-people exchanges between our two countries.

H. Res. 947 is also timely and important due to the ongoing Six-Party Talks and current attempts to dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program. President-elect Lee has pledged to make the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula a priority of his administration. In order to achieve the goal of a nuclear free Korean Peninsula, the Republic of Korea will need the full support of the United States.

Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus of Korea and the U.S.-Korea Inter-Parliamentary Exchange and as a member of the House Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and Global Environment, I am committed to ensuring that the rock-solid U.S.-Korea alliance remains relevant, resilient, and enduring.

For these reasons, I again congratulate President-elect Lee on his electoral victory and am certain that I speak for all of my Congressional colleagues in wishing him the best.

IN MEMORY OF JUNE IMPSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember June Impson, longtime professor for Texas Women's University and beloved local artist to the citizens of North Texas.

Ms. Impson was on the faculty of the Texas Women's University Department of Family Sciences from 1976 until her retirement in 1998. During her career in academia, she continued to pursue art and was an active member of the Denton, Texas-based Visual Arts Society of Texas. She served as an officer in the society, and Ms. Impson also taught workshops and learned alongside her fellow members.

Ms. Impson was known for her paintings and collages of flowers, especially the wildflowers of Texas. “I love nature,” Ms. Impson once said. “All of it. Rocks, and dirt.”

Her work was described as “immediate, bold, and beautifully painted.” She was thought by many to be inspirational, gentle, imaginative, encouraging, and inclusive and she will be greatly missed in the art community as well as the North Texas and Texas Women's University communities.

She was so loved by the art community around her that the Visual Arts Society of Texas established a scholarship fund in Ms. Impson's name before her death.